

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

STAY
NO

Next Week:

Special on
Amman Computer
Expo '92
* Show review
* Behind the scenes
* New products

Software applications:

The synch monster

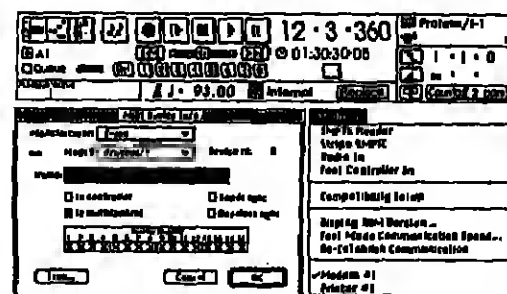
By Haytham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

ONE OF the best applications of computer driven (software) sequencers, is the ability to synchronize many modules, such as synths, samplers and drum machines together. To avoid technical problems, you must first understand how MIDI works when synchronizing several instruments together.

MIDI is a binary language with only two 'letters', a zero and a one. Therefore, any message written in MIDI is just a string of zeros and ones. When you press a key on a keyboard for example, a string of zeros and ones is transmitted serially down the MIDI cable and into the computer. Sequencing software in the computer can recognize and 'interpret' these messages. Thus during playback, the synth receives the recorded information and interprets it. This is why it plays the performance the same way you did.

To sync several instruments together, you should understand two main types of MIDI messages, channel messages and system messages. System messages are the key to a happy everlasting sync. They include MIDI clock

signals (which are used to keep two units running at the same tempo) and stop, start, and continue messages, which can be sent to a sequencer to control its playback remotely. These types of messages are called system



real-time messages, because they convey timing information.

On the other hand, channel messages are those that describe an actual music performance, meaning how the keyboard or module was actually played. The MIDI specification defines 16 MIDI channels, but they are not like the separate channels on an audio mixer. A single MIDI cable carries information on all channels, but when you set your module to receive on channel three for example, it only 'listens' to the information on that channel alone.

Let's assume that you want to sync a drum machine and a synth together. For the sync to work, the MIDI specifications of your

software sequencer must include the ability to transmit stop, start, and continue messages. You should also be able to change the clock setting of your sequencer from 'internal' to 'MIDI clock' in case you want the sequencer to sync to the drum machine. In the whole set-up, the drum machine or the software sequencer must be the 'master clock'. It's always best to choose the sequencer for this task, because it's easy to manipulate.

Now, set your sequencer to transmit start, stop, and continue messages and set the clock on the drum machine from 'internal' to 'external'. Never ever forget to turn the Omni mode setting to off, or else the drum machine will receive all the other information transmitted by other devices, resulting in unwanted chaos.

If you have drum patterns stored on the drum machine once you hit the play button on the computer, the drum machine will start playing back the required patterns. Now, you've reached a stage where you can play the synth and record notes into the computer. As you play back the whole performance, the drum machine is triggered along with the synth, and they stay happily over after in sync! Whoever said that technology wasn't a dangerous advantage over others!

Under-computerized

NEW TERMS and phrases appear all the time in our information age. For example, Third World countries are said to be 'under-computerized' — including Jordan. To what extent is this true? Some interesting statistics on the subject were presented in a paper by Jordan at a regional software engineering conference held in Cairo earlier this year.

According to the paper, computers were first introduced in Jordan back in 1969. Software companies started to appear in the late Seventies, the first of which appeared in 1978. The country now includes over 8000 business microcomputer systems and over 500 mid-range and larger systems. Computer professionals exceed 4000. As for consultants or computer advising firms, they are very few and usually work with international hardware and software companies.

A project that should change all this is the National Information System (NIS) which was approved back in 1987, to provide necessary information for development, planning and socio-economic studies and to promote scientific research and the transfer of technology by coordinating information from various sources.

The NIS has lagged badly behind and has long been stalled. Recently, a concentrated plan was put forward by the Council of Ministers to see the NIS through. It will take the form of an organization connected administratively to the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). The foundations for this system are ready with a data base of scientific and technological information at the Royal Scientific Society and a database of economic and social information at the Ministry of Planning.

So where does this leave home users? It is expected that a later phase of the project will serve such users through providing other types of information and possibly usable software and enabling access. I and many of my readers fail to understand how we will ever have a decent national computer network if modems are banned in the country. Modems are the building block of any computer network and it would be ridiculous to have a network full of information without inking the tools of access available to users.

It is true that some organizations and institutions are allowed to use modems, but does this mean that the home user will never be able to use this databank? According to officials, there will be information centers open to the public for access to the network. I wonder if that will be enough, however. In other countries, people are allowed entry to all sorts of commercial networks and computer billboards by paying a membership fee. Other national networks are open to just about anybody. Governmental networks are exclusive to governmental institutions and organizations because of the nature of the information involved. Stories of computer hackers managing to trespass into a government network are dangerous, but is the answer to forbid the use of modems?

The attempt to convince us that the facsimile can replace the modem is nonsense. Admittedly, the fax has proven to be a dependable form of communication, but the modem is an important part of telecommunications technology. Today, so much information is available on computers on the other side of the globe, how do you presume we can receive such information?

No doubt, the NIS will definitely help change this 'under-computerized' situation, but not listening to the demands of the computer community is a major drawback. A decision to ban modems must be reconsidered, private computer networks and billboards should be allowed to be set up and, if there is going to be an NIS, we would like home users to be included in it. It's only fair.

Center seminar:
4:00-5:30pm: Al-Arab LIL-Nashir from Computer and Communications Systems (CCS).
6:00-7:30pm: "How to buy a monitor" from Computer City.
8:00-9:30pm: Jordan Computer Center gives a seminar on "Sakhr Arabization of Windows".

Wednesday 21 October:
12:00-1:30pm: Sedco seminar.
2:00-3:30pm: Artificial Intelligence from Modern Computer Center.

4:00-5:30pm: Computer Programming & Service Center "4th generation language database".
6:00-7:30pm: Specialized Technical Systems (STS) give a seminar on "Microsoft Arabic Windows".
8:00-9:30pm: "Executive Office" from Ideal Systems.
Thursday 22 October:
12:00-1:30pm: Al-Ghanem present a seminar on "The management and financial solutions".

2:00-3:15pm: Andersen Consulting give a seminar on Business Process Reengineering.
Autographics give the Geographic Information System.
6:00-7:30pm: Al-Nashir present a seminar on computers in printing and publishing.
8:00-9:30pm: GBM offer another seminar on IBM's new OS/2 system.
Friday 23 October:
4:00-5:30pm: Integrated systems

present "Optical Storage Systems".
6:00-7:30pm: GBM present their last seminar on "IBM AIX".
8:00-9:30pm: Ideal Systems concludes the schedule with their seminar "Macintosh Windows". These seminars should be a treat for all computer users since there's almost something for everybody. The show itself is, so far, the biggest computer expo yet held. So be there.

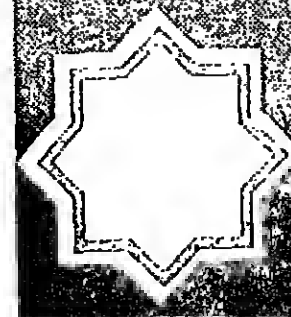
AX - 1100 (8086)
AX - 2100 (286)
AX - 3100 SX (20MHz)
AX - 3300 (386)
100% IBM compatible

Jordan Computer Center
SHMEISANI
TEL: 679616 / 679626

Prices: Jordan: JD 250, Egypt: LE 1.00, Kuwait: KD 400, Saudi Arabia: SR 3.00, Qatar: QR 3.00, UAE: DR 3.00.
Subscriptions: (annual) Jordan JD 12, Arab countries US\$ 75, W. Europe US\$ 150, USA & Canada US\$ 200.

The Star

The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

LANIER

Photocopiers

TEL: 699661
FAX: 604864
Modern Arabian Business CORP.
OKI LANIER Minolta

AMMAN, 22 — 28 OCTOBER 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 31

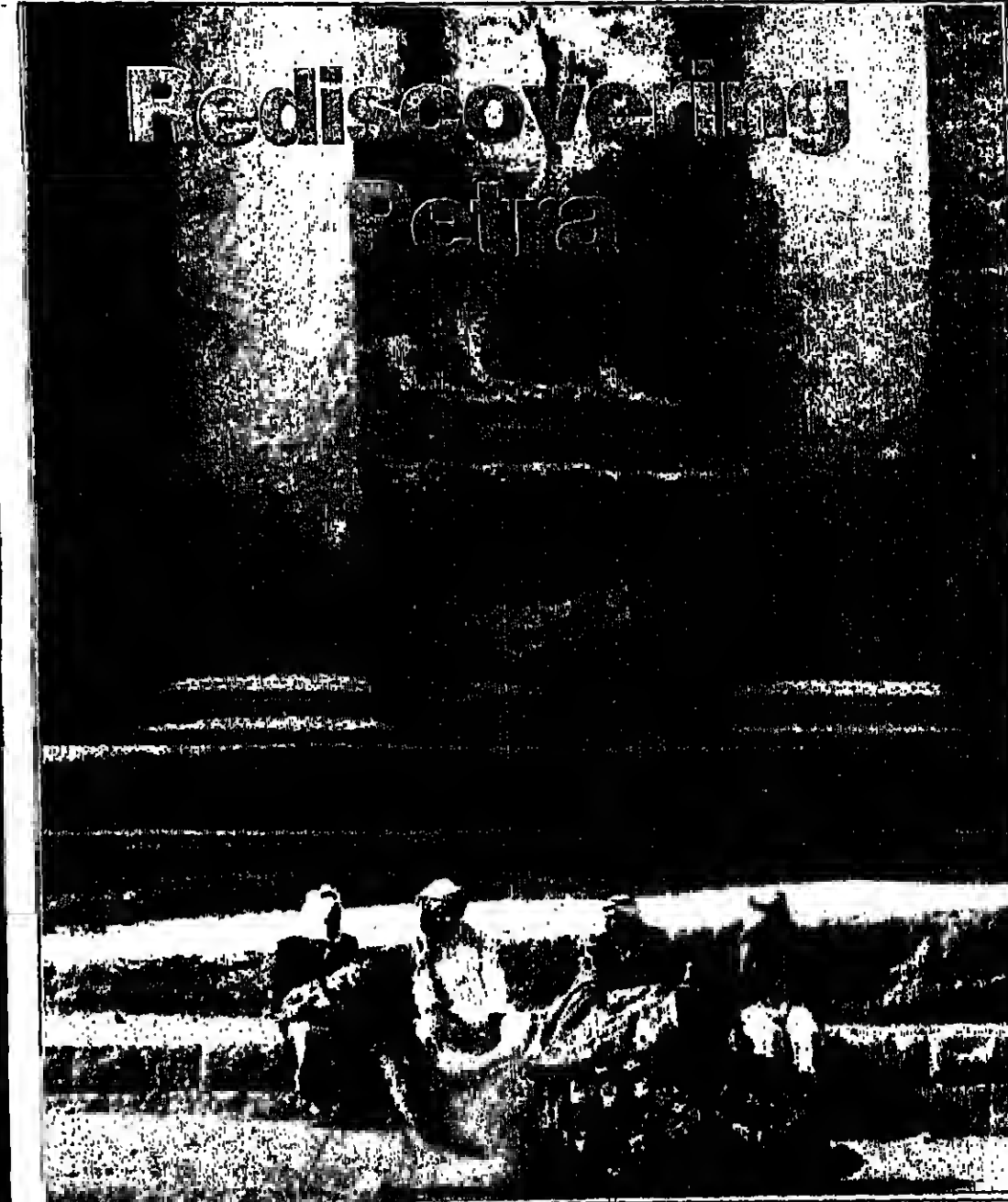
اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة



JORDAN
WEEK:
An
unconventional
report on
Jordanian news
and views
page 2



Israel and the prisoners
of the Intifada



Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

Pages 10 & 11

In this week's

THE STAR'S
WORK
X NO

Amman
Computer Expo. 92
GBM's voyage of
discovery

ECONOMIC
PERSPECTIVES
AL GHAD AL INTISADI

Biweekly economic newsletter
This issue:

- Public vs private sector in Jordan
- Gloomy outlook with bright spots
- Habib-Delonde on Franco-Arab commerce
- Regional and local tenders

Published by Info-Media International
For subscription information
call 652380

Info-Media
TEL & FAX (922) 6-644-222
P.O. Box 9013 Amman - Jordan

Professional
Publishers and Media
Consultants

Newsletters, mailings, brochures,
translations, designs & layouts,
typesetting and research



JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Al Nafeer case: From the sensational to the bizarre

The trial of defendants in Al Nafeer Al Islami group has moved from the sensational to the bizarre. Lawyers for the two prime defendants, Lower House deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, announced Sunday that they were withdrawing from the case to protest what they described as Saturday's unscheduled — and closed — session in which a Syrian witness, Yassin Ramadan Yassin, testified to delivering DM 300,000 from the Iranian presidency to deputy Shbeilat in Amman.

Sunday's short but stormy session ended after the court defended its right to hear this surprise witness, who travelled to Jordan and contacted the court to present his testimony. The court also accepted the decision of the lawyers' panel and gave the two defendants until Tuesday to appoint new attorneys.

The general prosecutor of the State Security Court, Maj. Muhammad Hijazi told reporters that the witness requested a closed session "to protect his life."

After the session was adjourned, Mr Shbeilat announced that he was beginning an open-ended hunger strike to protest the handling of his case. Sheikh Qarash and Mrs Shbeilat also announced that they were starting a hunger strike.

Mr Shbeilat was greeted by tens of sympathizers from his hometown of Tafileh as he was escorted out of the courtroom. By Tuesday, both defendants were still declining to name new lawyers.

Lower House deputy and first deputy to the speaker Mr Abdel Karim Dhugni, who was one of the lawyers representing Mr Shbeilat, told a news conference Monday that the defence panel, which is headed by Ibrahim Bakr and Mahmoud Hammad, had filed a case with the Higher Justice Court on behalf of Mr Shbeilat's wife questioning the constitutionality of the State Security

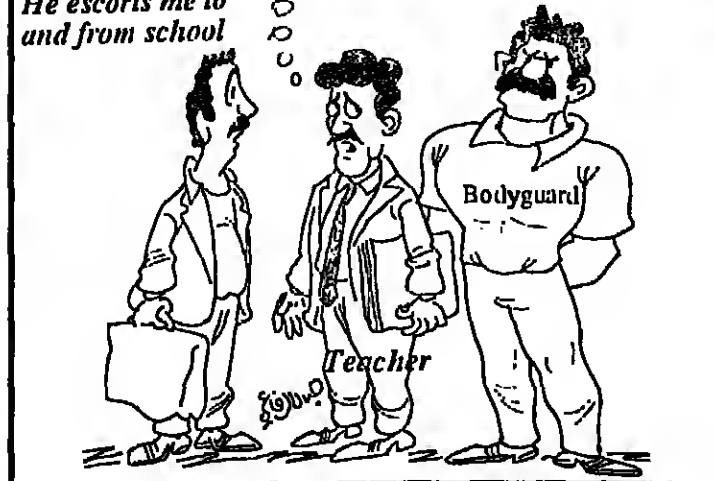
Court. He added that this was one of the reasons behind the withdrawal of the defence panel from the case.

On Wednesday, the court decided to appoint lawyers to defend the two deputies. Mr Shbeilat has denied knowledge of the Syrian witness and his defence had asked for proof of the witnesses' identity.

House loses second bid against Rifai

An Amman court has acquitted former prime minister Mr Zaid Rifai this week. Forty-two Lower House deputies had filed a suit against Mr Rifai accusing him of libel after he published a statement in local newspapers on 4 August in which he commented on the House's ruling on the Azraq-Jaffa highway case, where a move to indict Mr Rifai on corruption charges failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority. The House Investigations Committee, which investigated alleged corruption cases and brought

He escorts me to
and from school



charges against Mr Rifai and former ministers Hanna Odeh and Abdallah Hawmdeh, was headed by deputy Laith Shbeilat.

Meanwhile, the editor of Ad Dustour newspaper Dr Nabil Sharif called on the House to drop two similar charges against the director of the Royal Cultural Center, Mr Ibrahim Qattan, and a number of citizens from Tafileh, who demonstrated in front of parliament after the House indicted Mr Hawmdeh. In a column in his paper, Dr Sharif said the House should move to make reconciliation and concentrate on the real issues at hand.

paper said the new party identifies itself as an Arab Islamic nationalist party based on the principles of unity, justice and democracy. A draft version of the party's by laws has been prepared by Mohammad Kheir Al Rossan, Mohammad Kheir Kilani, Abdel Fatah Tougan, Aref Uteibi, Thair Ajlouni, Dr Odehalla Keisi, Mohammad Manajra, Marwan Utoum, Abdel Rahim Maiaha and Dr Taleb Al Harthi. Party Congress will be called to convene to approve the draft in a meeting next month.

CBJ drags its feet on moneychangers

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is dragging its feet on the issue of licensing money exchange bureaux in the Kingdom under the new law. Last week the bank published a list containing the names of 15 applicants whose applications were given provisional approval. This is the second list which the CBJ has published. Applicants will receive final approval and licenses to open their business after final formalities have been completed. One applicant and a former partner in an exchange bureau told The Star that "the process is lengthy, boring and frustrating." He has submitted his application last August.

Three in one, Jordan style

Three Jordanian political parties have agreed to join forces under one umbrella, Ad Dustour newspaper said this week. The three parties, Democratic Unity and Justice, National Coalition and Justice Coalition, will merge into the Arab Muslim Party. The

682642

Jordan Hot-line

24 hours

It's free

It's short cut for
information
Hotels, Rent-a-Car,
Restaurants,
Entertainment...

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1kg	7,400
21 ct	6,500
18 ct	5,600
Eng. pound	8,100
8g	54,000
Rashed:	47.00
24ct (swiss)	150.00
Silver (1kg)	150.00

Money Matters

Average exchange
rates in Jls

Tuesday 8/9/1992

	Buy	Sell
US\$	663.0	665.0
£	1312.7	1319.3
DM	469.0	471.3
SP	324.4	327.0
FRF	137.7	138.4
YEN	537.8	540.5
(100)		
DFL	415.8	417.9
SKR	128.2	128.8
LIT	61.5	61.8
(100)		
BLF	228.5	229.6
(10)		

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.3/8	9.13/16	10.3/16	4.3/16	7.3/4
2 mo.	3.1/2	9.11/16	10.1/4	4.1/8	7.13/16
3 mo.	3.1/2	9.15/16	10.5/8	3.15/16	7.7/8
6 mo.	3.11/16	9.7/8	10.3/4	4.5/16	7.2/8
year	3.3/4	9.13/16	10.7/8	4.1/8	8.3/4

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 6.25%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 7.25%, 1 month 7.38%, 2 months 7.50%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.50%.

Dollar:

DMK SPR STG YEN CAN FRF

LAST 1.090/91 1.347/8 1.924/5 124.30/4 1.195/6 8.042/5

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

THE HUNGER strike staged this month by over 10,000 Palestinian prisoners reflected the fact that Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails are suffering from the worst conditions and most brutal torture methods since 1967, according to Mr Naim Tobassi, president of the Palestinian Journalists' Association.

Mr Tobassi told The Star during a working visit to Jordan last week that the strike was an attempt to show that the maltreatment of prisoners and the poor conditions in Israeli jails had in fact worsened since the onset of the Intifada.

The 19-day strike, in which detainees in 22 jails in both Israel and the Occupied Territories took only a salt and water diet, ended last Thursday with the death of one fasting prisoner, and triggered the bloodiest protests and demonstrations seen in recent months. "The coordinated efforts and solidarity between the Palestinians on the street and the striking prison inmates have created a powerful political front within the occupied territories," said Mr Tobassi.

Mr Tobassi said that an initial improvement in prison conditions, established after years of struggle with Israel's prison authorities, was stopped with the beginning of the Intifada. He described the current level of prison conditions as being "in complete violation of the 4th Geneva Convention" regarding the treatment of civilians in occupied territories.

Israel, however, dismissed the strike as merely a political protest aimed at bolstering the Palestinian position at the peace talks. While not forgetting the humanitarian aspect to the strike, Mr Tobassi agreed in fact that this driving force has the strength to influence the current round of the US-brokered peace talks, by drawing international attention to the opinion that "there can be no peace without the Palestinian

Israel punishes prisoners in response to Intifada



Palestinians march in solidarity with prisoners

people and no independence without land." He also added that the hunger strike made a significant contribution to reviving the Palestinian uprising, which is nearing its fifth year.

Present day demands of Palestinian prisoners include: Freedom of movement between cell blocks, better food in terms of quality and quantity, increased family visits, less crowding, better medical care and better exercise facilities. They also insist upon fewer searches, a cease in the use of tear gas inside the cells and a halt to the use of punitive isolation against prisoners.

Mr Tobassi divided the prisoners' struggle for achieving their basic human rights into three stages, according to the qualitative development of the inmates' demands and the response of the prison authorities.

The period between 1967 and

1975 he characterized as a stage of brutality, torture and humiliation, with the long term objective of obliterating the feeling of national and human identity among Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli prison authorities applied a variety of psychological and physical torture methods in order to achieve this — to this date 88 Palestinians have died by torture in Israeli jails.

"Many Palestinian people died inside and outside the jails during that particular period," said Mr Tobassi, "thus backing up the growing national movement and clearing the way for those who survived."

The second stage, he added, was between 1977, when the national movement began to "assume a clear form", and up until the beginning of the Intifada. This period was marked by better coordination of nationalist activi-

ties between those inside and outside jails, which forced the prison authorities to reconsider prisoners' demands.

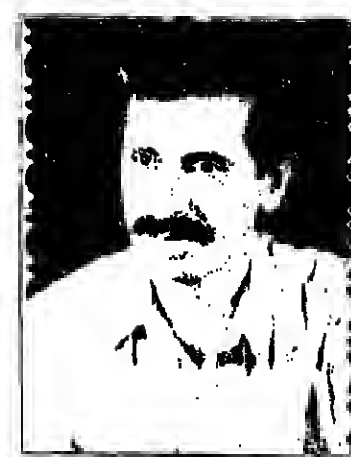
"The (Israeli) authorities soon realized the extent of the prisoners' power in affecting politics outside the prisons," said Mr Tobassi. "Gradually they provided facilities such as allowing more visits for lawyers,

forming committees inside the prison, less torture, an hour's daily walk, sun light to enter through demarked windows and no isolation."

A series of hunger strikes started in 1980 soon brought permission for televisions, radios, newspapers, soap and winter and summer clothes to enter the prisons. At the same time, the Red Crescent formed a committee for supporting prisoners.

Charitable associations and the Red Cross were allowed into the jails, providing the opportunity for interaction with detainees and spreading awareness among the public about the human aspect to the Palestinian struggle.

Mr Tobassi added that the Israeli occupation authority's attempt to destroy national feeling among the prisoners failed completely at this stage, and that the prisons turned into "an academy"



Tobassi

for spreading national awareness. Since the third stage, which started in 1987 with the outbreak of the Intifada, Israeli jails have been home to more than 60,000 inmates. Mr Tobassi claims that Israel's penal institutions have housed more than 20 percent of the Palestinian population during the Intifada period.

This period also brought a new wave of ferocity in measures used against Palestinian detainees, turning conditions inside the prisons into worse than those at the beginning of the occupation.

Mr Tobassi said that only a concerted effort by international organizations, Arab countries and a united Palestinian force will block the Israeli occupation authorities from continuing to carrying out their iron fist policy.

He also suggested that an international conference on the plight of Palestinian prisoners could be of great help in drawing international attention to the human aspect and suffering of the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinian people do not want death as a record of life. We want peace — but not any kind of peace. We want justice, which will bring Palestinians their rights and their land," said Mr Tobassi.

'No partial solutions,' Arab foreign ministers say after Amman meeting

Amman (Star) — Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks have reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Egypt said any solution to the conflict "should be comprehensive and should proceed on all fronts in accordance with the principles upon which the peace process is based."

In a joint statement issued at the end of a two-day coordination meeting in Amman Sunday, Arab parties to the peace negotiations and Egypt blamed Israel for the failure of the sixth round of peace talks, which ended in Washington on 23 September, to achieve any real progress.

The lack of a clear Israeli strategy for peace is responsible for this failure, said the statement, demanding that Israel complies with international laws and implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The meeting, which was chaired by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and attended



King Hussein receiving Arab foreign ministers in Amman

by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, head of the Political Department at the PLO Farouq Kaddoumi and ambassador Ja'far Muawi from Lebanon, convened to coordinate Arab positions ahead of the seventh round of bilateral negotiations which started in Washington Wednesday.

Earlier reports indicated that Mr Moussa was carrying Israeli proposals to the meeting following his meetings with Israeli leaders this month but conference sources denied these reports. Palestinian officials said the meeting also defused tension be-

tween Syria and the PLO over Palestinian statements voicing concern about a separate Syrian Israeli peace treaty in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. But informed sources say the two sides still have differences about the way in which progress on the separate tracks of the peace process should be dealt with.

The meeting was the fifth among Arab parties to the negotiations since the launching of the peace talks in Madrid, Spain, in October last year.

Participants at the conference were later received by His Majesty King Hussein.



Austrian Airlines now offers two weekly flights from Amman to Vienna. With immediate onward connections to all major European cities.

dep Amman	arr Vienna
Tue, Thu 12.15 hrs	17.00 hrs

Austrian Airlines

Shamsat, Abdulhamid Sharaf St.

P.O.Box 1803 Amman

Tel. 68 45 26; 68 45 76; 66 70 28; 63 62 32

Welcome To
AUSTRIAN
AIRLINES

la Redoute

French Fashions
For Ladies &
Gentlemen

Have Your Free
la Redoute
Catalogue

Please Call:
644938 — 646092



MEC

MIDDLE
EASTERN
COMPUTING MAGAZINE

Now available in selected bookshops and newsstands.

Published by Info-Media International

For more information call 652380

Meeting examines prospects for the region's disabled

By a Star Staff Writer and other sources

IT IS estimated that at least 10 to 15 million people in the region have disabilities, amounting to around 10 per cent of the population. As in other parts of the world, disabled persons have long been ignored, oppressed and exploited, with support coming mostly through charity.

All this changed in 1976, when the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). It was observed in all countries and generated world-wide awareness of the

rights, capabilities, creativity and needs of disabled persons. For disabled persons themselves, it was a milestone in the long struggle against discrimination and for equal rights.

The IYDP was in fact a turning point for the region, when the focus was shifted from charitable activities towards working with disabled persons to promote their rights. Another important outcome was the World Program of Action concerning Disabled Persons, based on the principles of human rights, full participation, self-determination, integration into society and the equalization of communities.

In adopting the World Program of Action, the General Assembly also proclaimed the period 1983 to 1992 as the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons.

To mark the end of the Decade, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which has its headquarters in Amman, held a cultural event for the region's disabled persons this week. Organized alongside the UN Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the event was also the work of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Jordan's Ministry of Social Development, the Executive Council of the

General Union for Voluntary Societies, the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped and the Center for Rehabilitation and Training for Blind Girls.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, who was also patron of ESCWA's first conference on 'The Capabilities and Needs of Disabled Persons' in 1989, the event aimed at promoting public awareness of the capabilities and creativity of disabled persons and the need for fully integrating them into all aspects of life. The event was also a forum within which to review the Decade and the World Program of Action in terms of both their initiatives along short-comings.

The event incorporated a plenary session, in which participants elaborated a regional long-term strategy towards the year 2010 for disabled persons within the

ESCWA region. Accompanying activities included sports competitions conducted by disabled athletes under the patronage of His Royal Highness, Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid at Amman's Sport City.

Another feature was a charity bazaar where disabled persons and their various associations from the region displayed their artistic and handicraft products. Three major cultural events were also held — a concert by the Center for Training and Rehabilitation for Blind Girls, a folkloric ballet and a play by the Silent Theater Group.

During working groups organized to complement the event, specialists, academicians and media representatives debated ways and means of enhancing the role and responsibilities of mass media professionals towards disabled persons. Other topics included the strengthening of coordination among non-governmental organizations of disabled persons and legislation aimed at guaranteeing the rights of disabled persons.

In her address at the opening session, Her Majesty Queen Noor praised ESCWA for its "continued commitment to the needs of the disabled and its contribution to such sectors as research, documentation and follow-up." She also reiterated the importance of resolving the region's economic constraints so that efficient and cost-effective ways of providing the disabled with the facilities required to play a full and productive role in society could be developed.

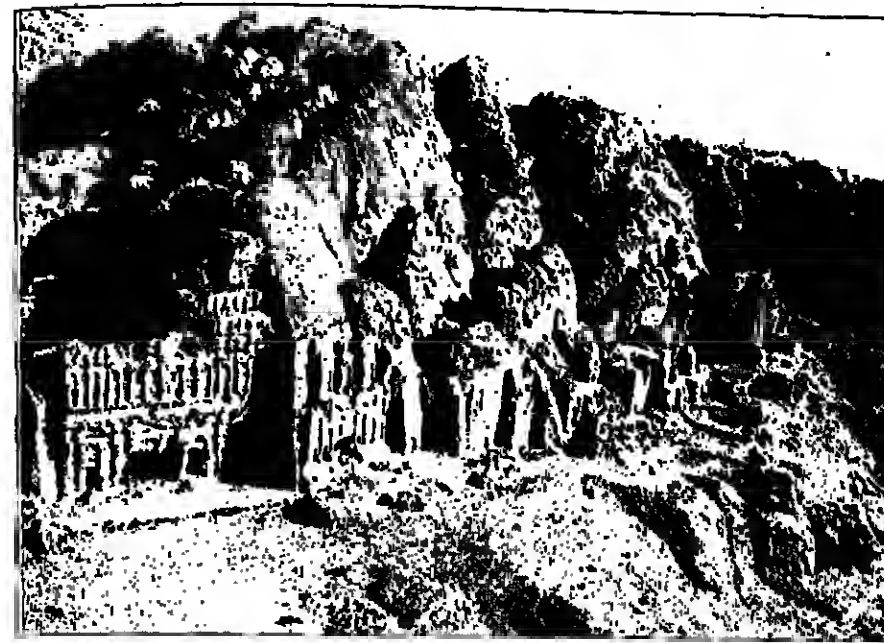
Her Majesty also forwarded a number of factors that, in her opinion, could "progressively reduce the rate of disability in our region." Her recommendations included universal child immunization; education — especially of women; better access to health care; water and sanitation facilities; media promotion of greater family awareness; lower fertility rates and better pre-natal care for women and increased coordination between the government, the private sector, NGOs and international organizations. She also suggested enhanced coordination among specialists, policy makers and disabled persons themselves.

In an accompanying speech, Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Dr Tayseer Abdel Jaber, drew on the main themes of the World Program of Action concerning disabled persons, being: Prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities in all aspects of life, including employment and independent living.

Dr Abdel Jaber was confident that the Decade of Disabled Persons served to "increase public awareness of disability issues and has facilitated some of the progress made in the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons in the region." He also expressed hope that the World Program of Action in the ESCWA region would go beyond the Decade, in order to implement the UN General Assembly's principle of "a society for all".

Dr Abdel Jaber brought attention to the fact that disability has grown rapidly in the region as a result of social, environmental, cultural and medical factors. "The magnitude and scope of this problem have been increasing continuously due to armed conflicts and unresolved issues," he said, citing civil strife in Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, Israeli practices in the Occupied Territories and the Gulf War as examples. ■

Re-discovering the glory of the golden city of Petra



Royal Tombs (left), Bidul bedouin and camel by the Treasury (right)

By Haitham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

THE DESERT has remained unchanged for millions of years, due to the few resources it can provide to its dwellers, not to mention the blazing rays of its golden sky, which can burn naked skin alive. Yet it has brought unforgotten beauty to our hearts and senses, especially in Jordan.

At the heart of the southwestern Jordanian desert, there lies an ancient glorious city, that was once the heartbeat of world trade. A city with beauty that matches the ingenuity behind its architecture and creation.

Petra is considered to be a marvel of an achievement, since it is one of a kind in being literally carved in the rocks, back in the days when the only tools for such job were a hammer and a chisel.

But after its demise as a regional trading center, the beauty of Petra was forgotten by the world for many long years, only to be rediscovered by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt in 1812. Ever since, the beauty of Petra has enchanted archaeologists and artists with its flabbergasting rosy glare, made more atmospheric by the beautiful golden sunshine that falls upon its ancient, rusty bones.

The city has also regained its health and archaeological importance, thanks to the likes of the late Dr Kenneth Russell and British photographer Jane Taylor, among other specialists.

Ms Taylor, author of 'High Above Jordan', has now decided to hold an exhibition of photographs of Petra at the Marriott Hotel in remembrance of Dr Russell, who died unexpectedly last May. The much-loved Dr Russell received his early training in archaeological field work in the mid 70s in Petra, and died in Jordan at the prime of his scholarly career. He was buried in the ancient city.

The magic of Petra never left Dr Russell's heart, drawing him repeatedly back to his much-loved site. In recent years, he made a study of the ethnoarchaeology of the Bidul Bedouin, Petra's present day inhabitants.

In 1990, Dr Russell discovered the remains of a large Byzantine church in the heart of Petra, and was about to begin excavations

there when he suddenly fell ill. It is not hard to see why Ms Taylor has decided to give all the money earned from the sale of the photos to the newly-established Kenneth Russell Memorial Trust. The Russell Trust will provide scholarships for higher education in archaeology and related fields for residents of Jordan, and travel fellowships to students of any nationality who wish to conduct archaeological and related research in the Kingdom. It will also provide assistance for the education of the Bidul Bedouin.

Ms Taylor, who has a degree in medical history and moral philosophy, first came to Petra in 1978, when she was extremely impressed by the mountains' wild rock formations and the great designs of the city. She has now established a strong rapport with Petra and its inhabitants, the Bidul Bedouin.

A former writer of TV programs and ESC documentaries, Ms Taylor was once involved with a BBC project about the history and art of Turkey, taking photographs of some of its marvelous sites.

Although she has had no special training in photography, she manages to capture wonderfully thrilling photographs, best illustrated in her books and exhibitions. She perceives the beauty of Petra as "a great challenge to any artist," and through her photos certainly "capture the moment," she stresses that there is nothing quite like seeing Petra



An aerial view (above) of the Treasury, outer Siq, Theater and Petra basin, silhouetted against the sunset (right)

live! Ms Taylor also admits that she does not take photographs to convey or produce artistic messages, although there is a notable play of light in them. Her main concern is to guide the person into the eternal beauty of this desert city, which she hopes will encourage more people to visit Petra.

Her pictures are usually captured in the early morning or at sunset, which reveals both the beauty of 'beast of the desert'. The exhibition itself contains a good variety of well-taken photographs that try to offer the viewer a good understanding of the Petra region. One of her photos, entitled 'Treasury, Outer Siq, Theater and Petra Basin', reveals a well-taken aerial shot of the Siq and the Treasury.

The photograph guides the eye to feel the depth of the Siq and its relevance and importance to this ancient site. 'Royal Tombs' portrays the interesting facades of Petra, with the mountains towering above the tombs. A third shows four Bidul Bedouin resting in front of the Treasury, with a safely camel lying in the foreground. It is amazing how tiny people seem when compared to the huge, ancient structures of the city.

It makes one wonder how such structures could have been built, when their best friend was a mere chisel, that could be taken for granted today when compared to our huge and advanced machinery. The Silhouette of Jabal Haroun' after sunset is an enticing photo that manages to capture the beauty of the desert's sunset in a kaleidoscopic array of colors. But the picture requires personal contemplation to realize the depth and effort that lie behind it.

It is not hard to see the devotion and love that Jane and her companions, Vivian Ronay, Wilson and Eleanor Myers, Gaetano Palumbo and Marguerite van Geldermalsen feel for Petra — the exhibition offers ample evidence.

It is worth remembering that Ms Taylor remained in Petra back in 1990, during the month of December when the Gulf crisis was still alive. She managed to discover the city when nobody beside the Bidul was there, remarking how they had left their government-built housing project to go back to the caves they had previously inhabited.

Thus it comes as no surprise to hear her admit that Petra gives her a "sense of being at home." Besides that, she also perceives herself as working for a cause that is highly worthwhile.

In her words: "The archaeological heritage of Petra needs to be preserved," believing that there ought to be more trained people in the field. Maybe we too can learn to love and preserve these ancient ruins, just like Ms Taylor and her colleagues involved in such projects. Such efforts should make us recognize the limits of our modern civilization against such ancient 'giants' as Petra. ■

We take good care of you every step of the way.

Royal Jordanian is constantly spending time and effort to improve the standards of service both on the ground and in the air.

From the time you check in you will be warmly welcomed and efficiently served. Once in the air you will enjoy fine international cuisine, comfort and a varied choice of entertainment programmes. This is all blended with the customary warmth that our international crew extends to satisfy the taste of even the most discerning traveller.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

Tomorrow's international standards, today.

Sotheby's hits the subcontinent

By Mimi Agarwal

BOMBAY — SOTHEBY'S first sale in India took place last week at the Taj Palace Inter-Continental Hotel, New Delhi. The sale of Indian, European and Oriental Paintings and Works of Art comprised sections of Indian bronzes, contemporary Indian art, 19th and 20th century European paintings and watercolours, European clocks, watches and automata, silver and gold cigarette cases, art nouveau and art deco bronzes, and Chinese and Japanese ceramics and works of art.

This was the first in a continuing series of Sotheby's sales in India, every April and October, creating an open marketplace for the buying and selling of works of art in the country.

In accordance with India's heritage laws, items more than 100 years old and other items which have been declared national treasures cannot be exported. This means that, though they may change hands, most of the Indian bronzes and works of art and the works of those contemporary Indian artists who are national treasures — Amrita Sher-Gil, Rabindranath Tagore, Raja Ravi Varma, Jamini Roy, for example — will not leave the country.

An 11th/12th century figure of the dancing Siva, the Creator and Destroyer, one of the three main deities of India, was estimated in the auction's preview to fetch £140,000-160,000. It dates from the Chola period, when the great Southern Indian empire spanned the 8th to the 12th centuries, famous for its temples and for refining bronze-making into a high art. The Siva was one of 62 Indian works of art being sold by

Mrs Sumati Morarjee, whose collecting career began over seventy years ago.

An executive director of the Seindia Steam Navigation Company, Mrs Morarjee is known as the First Lady of Indian shipping. She bought at a time when the value of Indian sculpture was recognized more in the West than in India, feeling that it was the duty of Indians to try and preserve the nation's artistic heritage. With an unerring eye for the unique she set about acquiring one of the best collections in the country.

"The gods of Indian sculpture," says Mrs Morarjee, "are cosmic beings, embodiments of some great spiritual power, spiritual idea and action. Not physical or emotional beauty, but the utmost spiritual beauty or significance of which the human form is capable, is the aim of this kind of creation."

Among the large number of Victorian and Edwardian pictures collected and brought to India by members of princely families, merchants and landowners, were seven by John William Godward, the 19th century classical revivalist. Works of Godward's for sale included his 1901 *Both of Venus* and *A Lily Pond*, painted in Rome in 1917. A painting entitled *Wine* by Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, who, with Lord Leighton, was a strong influence on Godward, was also up for auction.

There were also works, often large and in their original grand neo-classical frames, by Sir EJ Poynter, JW Waterhouse, AC Gow and other classicists, many of them Royal Academicians, whose work was obviously considered to represent the best in British art at that time.

Pictures of Arab men and women in cool, mosaic-panelled interiors, represented the parallel vogue amongst European painters for Orientalism. *Incense Burning* by Rudolph Ernst was featured, as was a large canvas by Long, dated 1879, entitled *The Guard*.

Sporting paintings and British landscapes were also taken home by Indian visitors, perhaps to remind them of their travels. There were views of Loch Ness, a Surrey harvest and a Devon cornfield, Richmond and Windsor Castle, North Wales and the Thames.

Race meetings and hunts were the theme of a series of paintings by Heywood Hardy, one of the better known Edwardian painters of this genre.

Archibald Thorburn was the most celebrated Edwardian exponent of the British tradition of natural history painting. The sale contained a group of his watercolours of individual birds for which he is particularly well known.

The contemporary Indian art section included works by founders of the modern art movement



Edwin Long's 'The Guard', dated 1879



Japanese gilt bronze elephant

A Japanese bronze elephant, art nouveau cameo lamps, parian figures, gold boxes and erotic cigarette cases — these are the sort of items which were bought by Indian travellers abroad during the period 1880-1940, often from shops such as Harrods or Asprey's.

Wealthy Indians, like their European counterparts were also keen to acquire the hand-made precision pocket and wrist watches made by Cartier of Paris and the famous firms of Geneva.

They also bought home sophisticated automata like the French timepiece in the form of a dreadnought battleship with a clock in one revolving turret and a barometer in the other, now priced at £1,800-2,000.

Mimi Agarwal is a writer and researcher based in Bombay

Art for the sake of Africa

By Maggie James

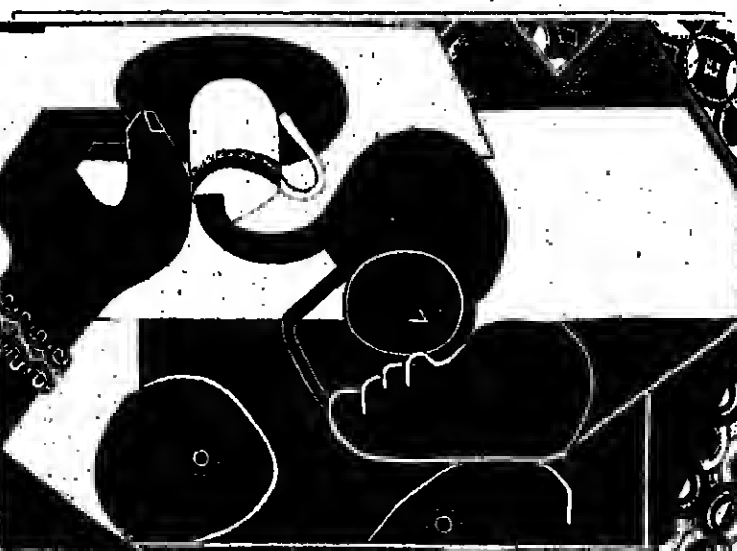
LONDON — FEATURING 172 works of art by artists from more than 40 different countries, the British charity Oxfam's fundraising exhibition *Art for a Fairer World*, opened to the public on 2 October 1992 in Glasgow and has attracted over 450 submissions. Claimed to be one of the biggest ever collections of international art ever seen in the United Kingdom, its venue until 11 October was the Art Gallery and Museum at Kelvingrove.

Exhibits from international artists included works by Colombian Ofelia Rodriguez, Indian painter Gora Chand Bera, China's Xin-Mao Cheng, Zacharyan-Mbutha from Kenya and the Libyan artist Ali Omar Ermes.

An impressive list of internationally renowned British artists also contributed work — including John Bellamy, Elizabeth Blackadder, Beryl Cook, Uzo Egonu, Peter Howson, John Kane and Bridget Riley.

Art for a Fairer World presented art collectors with an unrivalled opportunity to acquire works by artists who rarely get the chance to exhibit in the UK. The final selection of 172 works represented the culmination of months of planning and networking.

It was not enough to take the tried and tested route, to simply



'A cup of coffee in solitude', by Nigerian artist Uzo Egonu

draw in work from Europe and North America's well-known and commercially successful artists. Oxfam and its panel of expert advisers decided it was more appropriate to seek out the many artists in the Third World who want but are rarely offered the chance to exhibit their work alongside and on equal terms with those of artists who already enjoy commercial and critical success in the West.

Equally important was the desire to include work from black British artists. The exhibition is

these exhibits was a deliberate challenge to those who undermine the status of Third World artists, downgrading their art by calling it craft.

The selection panel, Karen De-muth of London's Flowers East Gallery, the Commonwealth Institute's Indira Nandha, Norbert Lynton and artist Harvey Daniels, was chaired by art critic and writer Edward Lucie-Smith.

Their difficult task was guided by an overriding concern: Was the work likely to sell? It is not a question likely to impress critics but it is a crucial issue for Oxfam. The crisis in Somalia and drought in Southern Africa are just two good reasons for ensuring that every event raises the maximum possible to enable Oxfam to continue and expand its relief and development programs in 77 countries worldwide.

The nature of Oxfam's work has meant that the charity is inevitably more easily associated with disaster and suffering rather than creativity and life, so it hopes that the exhibition will help to combat such negative images of the Third World.

Many of the participating artists come from those countries which are hardest hit by the terrible effects of poverty. There is work from Sierra Leone, where a quarter of all children die before the age of five, from Sudan, Bhutan, Zambia and Bangladesh.

countries with a reputation for disaster rather than artistic talent.

The exhibition was a reminder that the causes of poverty which include crippling international debt, unfavorable trading conditions, lack of accountable democracy and environmental degradation, do not extinguish the cultural life of a country even though poverty clearly does prevent so many people from fully participating.

Lord Palumbo, chairman of the UK Arts Council, pledged his personal support for the exhibition, saying: "Art for a Fairer World is an important and ambitious exhibition marking Oxfam's 50th anniversary. It is an occasion when I hope that artists feel, as I do, that despite all the continuing difficulties in the world, there is much to celebrate. The best contemporary art is, like Oxfam's work, about changing perceptions of the world around us. Oxfam has not only improved conditions, but drawn us all into that helping process."

All works included in the exhibition were on sale. Some artists agreed to donate the whole value of their work, others split the proceeds 50:50 with Oxfam. Funds raised will be used to support the charity's extensive programme of long-term development work in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Academic File

Maggie James is a writer and researcher based in London.

By Suzanna Wan

HONG KONG — If history indeed repeats itself then it is surely doing that in China — at least as far as the Great Wall goes. For centuries the famous construction has stood as a formidable legacy of engineering skill, bolstered by symbolism and myths that earned it a place among the wonders of the ancient world. Today the Wall lies exposed to the winds of change — and doubts over its authenticity that literally threaten its foundations.

Physically, the mighty wall has not been in better shape for a very long time. Large sections of its still undetermined length have undergone frequent renovation since the 1950s. The latest facelift was done only recently — more to attract tourist interest than to preserve the wall as a symbol of China's ancient past.

What is the Great Wall and where does it begin or end? So shrouded in mystery are its origins and present condition that scholars still cannot decide how long it is. Conflicting claims about the total length of the wall's various segments range from 1500 miles (2400 kilometers) to an astounding 32,000 miles (50,000 km).

In recent years the Chinese have witnessed a gradual demolition of the myths and legends that went a long way in solidifying the mud, bricks and stones of Mao Zedong's national pride. The wall became a symbol of China's might during the heyday of the Communist Party rule under Mao. It was even given a place in the national anthem.

The first stirrings of a change of attitude came with the start of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, when the wall was targeted by Mao fanatics seeking to enforce radical change. More than half of the wall was seriously damaged or reduced to its foundations by peasants who used the bricks to build farms and houses.

In 1984 with the influence of Mao greatly undermined, work on restoring the wall was once again taken up by Deng Xiaoping, who renounces China's senior leader. Many of its 1000 castles and 10,000 beacons stretching across the deserts, plains and mountain peaks of the northern frontiers of China have now been repaired.

But the new round of enthusiasm about the Great Wall seems to be rooted more in scholarly and archaeological interest than government propaganda.

A 1988 documentary called *The River Elegy* ridiculed the wall as a barrier to the outside world and a symbol of China's insular history — a theme ironically reaffirmed by Chinese government policies and actions in response to the opprobrium which visited upon Beijing following the Tiananmen Square massacre.

"The Great Wall cannot represent strength or progress or glory: It is a symbol of confinement, conservatism, impotent defense and timidity in the face of invasion... Ah! Great Wall, why do we still sing your praises?" intoned the narrator during the 1989 state-run television series.

Along with this outburst serious questions have been raised about the antiquity of the wall, challenging claims that the wall is 2000 years old or older.

Jorge Luis Borges, writing in *The Great Wall of China*, published by Thames and Hudson, explains that while the wall was

The crumbling myths of China's Great Wall

begun in the 3rd century BC it has constantly been under construction for 2000 years. Most of what is seen today, he points out, was built no earlier than the Ming Dynasty, which ruled China from 1368 to 1644.

Emperors from the various dynasties have used the wall according to their needs, building or demolishing parts of it to suit military or political ends. "We can say the Great Wall has been constantly repaired and extended throughout its history," says Borges.

Today tourist signs along the buttressed walkways identify it as the Ming Wall, killing the legend and defusing some of the aura surrounding its age.

But, while putting the present wall in a historical perspective

may be understandable, many historians still see the wall as part of a deeper tradition. "There is no good man who has not been to the Great Wall," declares a Chinese saying and to many Chinese it still remains the Great Wall of the first Emperor Shih Huang Ti.

China had a long chain of emperors dating back to 3000 years before Shih Huang Ti — but all evidence about them was destroyed and books were burned when he came to power. History, he ordered, should begin with him. Many people who were found hiding books were sentenced to labor on the wall. Shih Huang Ti reigned from 221 to 206 BC.

Borges states that "perhaps the wall was a metaphor, perhaps Shih Huang Ti sentenced those

who worshipped the past to a task as immense, as gross and as useless as the past itself."

"Perhaps the wall was a challenge and Shih Huang Ti thought: Men love the past and neither I nor my executioners can do anything against that over, but someday there will be a man who feels as I do and he will efface my memory and be my mirror and not know it...."

"Perhaps the burning of the libraries and the erection of the wall are operations which in some secret way cancel each other."

New trends of liberalization can do without the historical usefulness of the wall. China today needs no fortress to keep out invaders. New frontiers are being opened and foundations for a

new symbol have already been laid in the fledgling stock market in Beijing.

The future generations may create new myths and read other meanings in its stone structure but, still then, the wall stands to lose one of its most endearing myths.

Historian Arthur Waldron who has also written a book titled *The Great Wall of China* has shattered the belief that the wall is the only man-made structure to be seen from the moon. He says from a distance of 240,000 miles even the continents seem lazy and the closest astronauts have come to identifying the wall from space is from 100 to 200 miles above the Earth.

Be that as it may, for now the wall will remain a source of tourist income for the financially strapped government in Beijing and an object of historical and scientific research.

Suzanna Wan is a writer and researcher based in Hong Kong.



for



at

Amman Computer Expo '92
19 - 23 October 1992

Come and visit us
and see the latest IBM Technology
Personal Systems Family, RISC System 6000
and IBM AS/400.

Gulf Business Machines E.C.

Service and Support to IBM Distributors

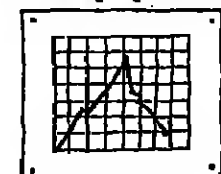
RS/6000
C.E.B.

AS/400
UNITECH

PS/2
SSC

PS/2
gco

Bush's popularity



Jalal Rifa'Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

Peace and the US elections

IT WOULD be foolish to expect substantial results to emerge from the seventh round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, which opened Wednesday in the American capital. For the delegates will be eyeing with interest the US presidential campaign, with the hope of building some kind of a strategy based on its outcome. This fact alone says enough about the current peace process, which was fathered by President Bush and nurtured by his Secretary of State Mr James Baker. The delegates know that without active US involvement in the peace process, it will be difficult, if not impossible to keep it alive.

This being the conclusion of each of the parties to the negotiation table, who then would these delegates vote for, if they had the chance?

Most Arab countries would favor Mr Bush on the account of the old proverb that the devil you know is better than the devil you don't. Since Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the United States has had direct influence on the evolution, or rather the mutation, of Arab and Middle Eastern politics. The destruction of Iraq under the pretext of liberating Kuwait, has created strange bedfellows with one hotel curator in charge, Mr Bush. And since Mr Bush's crusade against the indefatigable, but beleaguered, leader of Iraq has not ended with President Saddam Hussein's downfall, as everyone had hoped, the defeat of Mr Bush will leave the region in a more confusing state than before the Gulf crisis.

The Israelis, on the other hand, will pay Mr Bush lip-service, but will surely vote for Democratic candidate Mr Bill Clinton. Even if Mr Clinton proves less enthusiastic about backing Israel, as he appeared during his campaign, he will, if elected, spend the first year of his term bringing America together, fixing the economy and setting up a local agenda for his presidency. That is why he is described by some observers as an isolationist. We don't think he is, nor can he afford to be one, but if he wins the November elections, then the Middle East peace process as we know it today will lose momentum or will fizzle out completely.

Israel stands to gain from a distracted US administration. There won't be the need to discuss territorial concessions, giving up land for peace or even awarding the Palestinians some sort of a fair deal involving self-rule and an elected administrative council. That being the case, we will end up with Arab delegates showing up on time in Washington to chase out the Israelis, who will prolong the process until the Arab give up on them.

The real losers will be the Palestinians, who stood to gain the most from the current drive. They are the people living under occupation, suffering all kinds of brutality at the hands of their Israeli rulers. They are the ones who fueled the Intifada with their children and young men and women. To be left out in the cold after so many sacrifices will be sad and regrettable.

If the Arab people, not their leaders, had a vote in the matter, they would probably go for Mr Baker. He is seen as a man with leadership quality, a secretary very much unlike his predecessors; Mr Kissinger, Mr Shultz and Mr Hague.

With few days remaining until 3 November, Mr Bush appears to be losing the race. The Arabs should be prepared to deal with the outcome of the election, not on the basis of who wins it, but rather on how to keep the process alive and independent from the man sitting in the Oval Office. It is easier said than done, but Mr Clinton will soon learn the ABCs of America's foreign policy in the Middle East. Whether he chooses to learn the wrong lessons or the right ones is a matter of character. But we think the region deserves a shot at peace. America can help us and it must. ■

Cairenes learn to live with quake's toll, but complain of slow government reaction

Agency reports

EGYPTIANS WERE still feeling minor tremors ten days after a major quake hit Cairo killing more than 600 people and leaving thousands injured and homeless. The aftershocks were not only felt by a panicky populace, but also by the Egyptian government which is being accused by homeless families and kins of missing or dead victims of failing to deal with the catastrophe.

At least 1,000 people are believed dead, missing or homeless in the earthquake that hit Cairo, an official of the Egyptian Red Crescent declared.

But in a letter quoted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, the same official, Egyptian Red Crescent secretary-general Dr Mamdouh Gabr, suggested that the death toll alone could exceed 1,000.

"In view of the fact that Cairo is so large and has such a high density population, and the number of buildings that are reported to have collapsed, it seems to be a probable figure," federation spokeswoman Ann Naef said.

More than 10,000 people are believed to have been injured, including many children, Gabr said.

The death toll climbed above 600 this week, and thousands of frightened people camped out along the road in Cairo airport after rumors that another tremor was expected swept the city.

The quake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale. Old and dilapidated buildings tumbled down, while a relatively new building in Heliopolis collapsed killing at least 70 of its residents. The government has initiated an investigation into what the press has described as a clear case of swindling by contractors.

The government promised 500 Egyptian pounds (\$150) to the families of the dead and 200 (\$60) to the injured. Officials at a



metal table in the grounds of a hospital in the northern slum district of Shubra Khaymah started to hand out money to applicants.

Two professional syndicates controlled by Muslim fundamentalists, the engineers' and doctors' unions, accused the government of moving too slowly and launched their own campaign to house the homeless in tents and pay compensation.

Riot police faced angry demonstrators who were complaining of government bureaucracy and the lack of interest in their plight. They have been put into makeshift camps in schools pending a decision to re-settle them. The Interior Ministry said most of the quake's victims lived in greater Cairo where 12 million people live in one of the most overcrowded urban areas in the world.

A Red Crescent survey of hospitals found most of the injured were treated and discharged, and no more than 400 remain hospitalized, he added.

The quake lasted 20 seconds in Cairo and was preceded by a loud roar. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I AM a Jordanian currently living in Australia. Coming back from Aqaba on a JETT bus last week (because Royal Jordanian does not run a daily service), I was shocked to discover what kind of an operation the JETT people were running. Employees were rude and ill-mannered to Jordanians and tourists alike. A foreign stewardess on board spent the first hour of the journey chattering with a passenger, ignoring my pleas for a cold drink of water.

I later discovered that JETT has a monopoly on transporting tourists in and around the Kingdom. Why? If they are that good why not let the competition in? They have nothing to fear. I'm sure foreign tourists must think Jordan is a socialist country since only one company operates a tourist coach service. This is not the case and it shouldn't be.

The same can be said of Royal Jordanian's monopoly over flight to Aqaba. Why not allow small companies to run a shuttle service between the Aqaba and the capital. It will be better, cheaper and most of all there will be daily flight.

Suha Abdel Ghan, Perth, Australia.

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).
Editorial & Advertising: Telephone 652380 Fax 648298, P.O. Box 9313, Amman - Jordan.
Typesetting, layout and processing done exclusively on Apple Macintosh Desk-top publishing system. Images scanned on Hewlett Packard scanners.

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Osama El-Sherif

Economic policies trigger Philippine crisis

By Robert Repetto

WASHINGTON, DC — The economic policies supported throughout the developing world by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund can undermine long-term economic progress if environmental consequences are not taken into account, according to a first-of-its-kind analysis by the World Resources Institute.

At a time when many developing and formerly Communist countries are undergoing sweeping economic transformation, the report's findings are particularly relevant. It is being released to coincide with the joint annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF.

This pioneering analysis, *The Environmental Effects of Stabilization and Structural Adjustment Programs: The Philippines Case*, is significant because it demonstrates that macro-economic policies including stabilization and structural adjustment programs can have pervasive economic effects. Analyses of such policies carried out by international funders and national governments have largely ignored environmental factors.

"Macro-economic policies have momentous but little understood environmental consequences," concludes the report by this writer, vice president and senior economist at WRI, and Wilfredo Cruz, a leading Philippine environmental economist.

In regions now undergoing dramatic transformations, environmental degradation has been as obvious a symptom of the failure of previous policies as economic collapse.

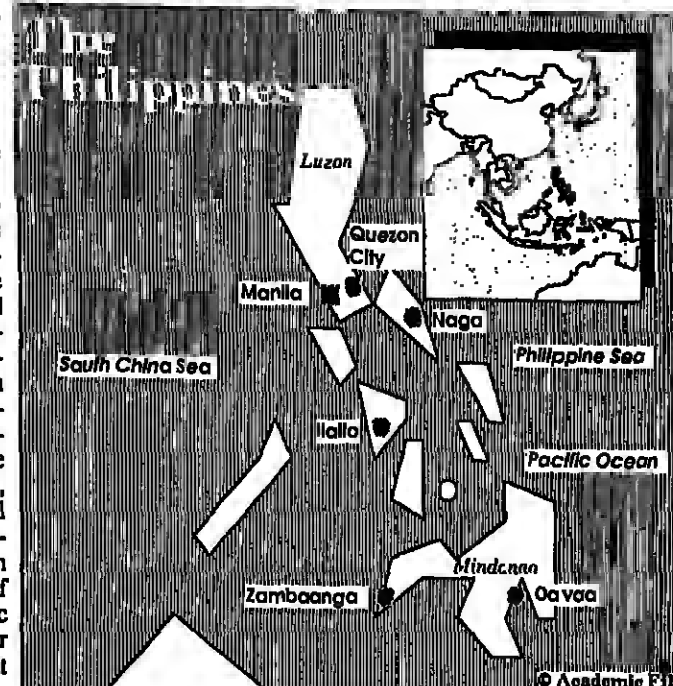
Repetto and Cruz examined the environmental implications of macro-economic policies in the Philippines before the onset of a debt crisis in the early 1980s, and the

consequences of the ensuing stabilization and structural adjustment programs financed by the IMF and the World Bank.

From 1970 to 1987, the analysis reveals, the Philippines' balance sheet deteriorated far more from depreciation of natural resources than from foreign borrowing. Depreciation in just three sectors — forests, soils and coastal fisheries — averaged more than four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) per year, 0.8 per cent higher than the annual rise of external debt as a percentage of GDP.

The study shows how development strategies and government mismanagement failed to effectively convert resource assets into productive capital, resulting in the decline of investment productivity throughout the economy. Over a 25-year period up to the early 1980s, the raw materials and energy required to produce a unit of output actually increased by about 40 per cent, raising both production costs and environmental pollution.

Philippine industrial and trade policies discouraged investment in forests and agriculture, and promoted capital-intensive in-



dustries. Distorted price signals provided Philippine industry with incentives to become more materials-intensive while fiscal policies heavily subsidized such pollution-prone and energy-intensive sectors as pulp and paper, mining, chemicals and petroleum products.

Because government policies favored industries closely tied to consumer markets, there was a pronounced concentration of relatively inefficient, pollution-prone processing industries in the metropolitan Manila area. Amid rapid population growth, Philippines policy started job creation and penalized agriculture, thus perpetuating severe income inequalities

and poverty. When the Philippine government sharply contracted the economy to meet IMF stabilization targets, migration into the upland forests accelerated markedly, as more than 2.5 million new migrants fled from unemployment into subsistence farming.

Repetto and Cruz argue the need, especially among the major donor agencies, for analytical models that relate natural resource use and environmental impacts to macro-economic policy changes.

"As countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa work to undo decades of state intervention and market distortion, the international community is being called on to provide advice and support for structural reforms. New economic policy packages must address and reverse ecological as well as economic deterioration," the report said.

Building environmental factors into macro-economics analysis might provide an early warning of ecological as well as economic losses — a critical issue particularly for countries heavily dependent on their natural resources for employment, revenue, and foreign-exchange earnings.

Based on their analysis, the authors conclude that external adjustments must be accompanied by domestic policy changes to ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

Measures to reduce the adverse impacts of stabilization policies on the poor are needed to prevent increased over-reliance on fragile environments for subsistence. Resource royalties and energy taxes should be used to correct fiscal imbalances while eliminating incentives favoring unsustainable resource use. Reforms to create more equitable and secure tenurial arrangements must be put in place to ensure that shifts in demand for resource-based commodities don't lead to boom-and-bust exploitation.

The authors find that such adjustment measures could have produced growth, employment and poverty alleviation while reducing environmental pressures. ■

Robert Repetto is vice-president and senior economist at the World Resources Institute in Washington, DC.

By Ben Jackson

LONDON — TEXTILES and clothing are central to the global economy. Although these industries are dominated by industrialized countries, they are of enormous importance to many Third World economies, accounting for over a quarter of those countries' manufactured exports.

And yet the development of textile and clothing industries in poor countries is being stunted by the Multi-Fiber Arrangement (MFA), a protectionist deal whereby rich countries continue to discriminate against textiles and clothing exports from poor countries.

Such discrimination costs poor countries around \$50 billion a year, almost the same as all world aid. But trade restrictions cost rich countries too — to the tune of \$22 billion every year through increased prices, reduced competition and reduced demand for western goods.

For Third World countries, clothes and textiles have provided a ladder out of the commodity trade trap which binds so many. Textile and clothing together account for over a quarter of all Third World manufactured exports, compared to less than five per cent for rich countries. Clothing is the Third World's single highest export.

Low technology production, low start-up costs and the need for large amounts of low-skilled labor have given poor countries an edge in making and exporting clothes and textiles.

But rich countries are fighting back against Third World producers through the introduction of high technology and the concentration of production into the hands of a few global giants.

The Third World has made more inroads into the clothing industry where automation has proved more difficult. Developing countries now account for 66 per cent of world clothing exports (excluding the considerable trade between EC countries). Amongst the world's biggest clothing exporters are Hong Kong, China, Korea, Tai-

Rich stitch up the world's rag trade

wan and Thailand. But the gains of Asian exporters are threatened by improved communications, enabling Northern companies to make short-run designer clothes closer to home markets. Northern restructuring is occurring under the continuing protection of the Multi-Fiber Arrangement.

For more than 30 years the Third World's potential in the clothing and textile trade has been contained by special arrangements outside the normal rules of world trade; first through the special agreements on cotton goods and then under the MFA.

The MFA is designed to avoid "market disruption" supposedly caused by imports from new, low-wage exporters. It consists of a series of country-to-country limits on the annual shipments of clothing and textiles from the Third World in each of a wide range of categories.

The MFA sets out the list of countries and products affected; the basis for determining quota levels; and the allowable growth and flexibility of the quotas. On this basis every importing country then sets its own detailed annual quotas on each exporter's products.

The current MFA has nine industrialized importers: USA, Canada, EC, Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Japan and Switzerland; and 32 exporters covering all Third World countries with any significant clothing or textile exports.

The European Community speaks as one country in the MFA talks. It sets EC-wide quotas, but these are then broken down into over 4,000 national-level quotas for each EC member state. However in June

1992, the Council of Ministers agreed in principle to abolish all national quotas as part of the move to a Single European Market.

The MFA goes completely against three of the most basic ground rules for world trade agreed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Firstly, it goes against the principle of non-discrimination by allowing rich countries to pick off certain countries (mainly in the Third World) for export limits, while leaving others (mainly in the rich world) untouched.

Second, the deals sanction the use of quotas on products, which the GATT is supposed to end or to replace with money equivalents, such as tariffs. Third, they are all based on the use of country-to-country trade restrictions, rather than a set of common, international rules.

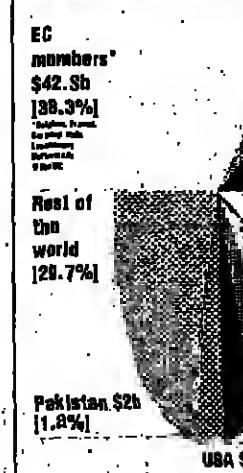
The MFA has been justified as a "temporary" measure allowing industry in rich countries to adjust to textile and clothing imports from poorer producers. From the beginning the MFA solemnly declared one of its main aims to be "the expansion of trade, the reduction of barriers to such trade, and the progressive liberalization of world trade in textile products."

The rich countries have hardly made exemplary progress towards this lofty ideal. Thirty years ago, one importer (the United States) was allowed to put restrictions on one exporter (Japan) in one product (cotton goods).

Today there are 20 importing countries supplying over 3000 restrictions, covering all types of fibers, to more than 30 export-

Top Textile Exporters

AND THEIR SHARE OF THE WORLD TRADE



ing countries under an agreement governing around 70 per cent of world trade in clothing and textiles. Through the four extensions of the MFA, poor countries have seen the list of restrictions get longer, more complex and ever tighter.

The current MFA runs out at the end of 1992. This opportunity should be seized to remove very poor countries, such as Bangladesh, from the threat of import quotas under the MFA, agree to end the MFA quotas in no more than 10 years and promote basic worker's right in the poor countries with which the EC trades. ■

Ben Jackson is campaign coordinator for the London-based World Development Movement, Britain's leading pressure group on Third World issues.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Réunion arabe

Pari commun sur le prochain round

Les délégués arabes réunis cette semaine à Amman veulent déployer "tous les efforts possibles" pour faire aboutir le prochain round des bilatérales. Les Syriens, soupçonnés de préparer une paix séparée, sont rentrés dans le rang

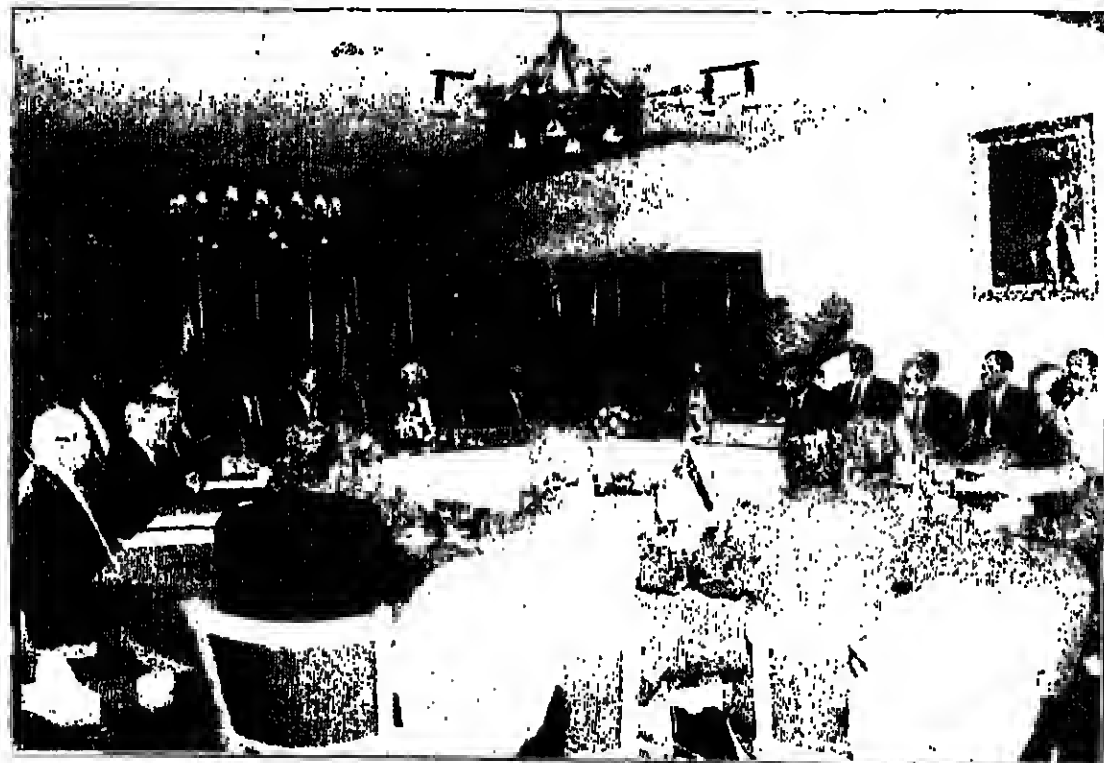
"DÉPLOYER TOUS les efforts possibles pour faire réussir" le septième round des pourparlers de Washington. C'est le mot d'ordre lancé par les parties arabes engagées dans le processus de paix, réunies samedi et dimanche.

Après deux jours de discussions, les chefs de la diplomatie jordanienne, Kamel Abou Jaber, syrienne, Farouk Al Chareh, le chef du département politique de l'OLP Farouk Kaddoumi et une délégation libanaise dirigée par l'ambassadeur Jaafar Mouawia ont rappelé les principes de base des négociations. Les parties doivent tenter d'obtenir "une paix globale sur tous les fronts".

Les textes de référence restent ceux de la Conférence de Madrid de l'année passée. Les négociations ont été interrompues le 242 et 338. Les Arabes ont réitéré leur appel à Israël de se "conformer aux résolutions internationales qui stipulent son retrait des Territoires arabes occupés et garantir les droits légitimes du peuple palestinien". Autre requête: mise en avant "le renforcement du rôle de Washington au Moyen-Orient, co-président du processus de paix".

La Syrie rassurée

Lors de ce meeting, la Syrie était attendue au tournant. Après l'annulation du voyage de Yasser Arafat à Damas prévu la semaine



Objectif: "une paix globale sur tous les fronts"

dernière, les Syriens devaient des explications. Ils ont calmé le jeu et les inquiétudes des Palestiniens quant à un éventuel rapprochement de leur pays avec Israël. Farouk Al Chareh n'a pas attendu la fin des discussions pour annoncer que la Syrie ne comptait pas signer de paix séparée avec l'Etat hébreu. Le ministre syrien des Affaires Etrangères a même accusé Israël de "pêcher en eaux troubles" en laissant le doute sur une telle éventualité.

M. Al Chareh a par ailleurs réaffirmé l'attachement de son pays à une paix globale sur tous les fronts. De telles déclarations ne font pas oublier pour autant le récent dialogue, amorcé lors de la sixième session des pourparlers bilatéraux entre Syriens et Israéliens.

L'Etat hébreu s'était déclaré prêt à un retrait partiel du plateau du Golan occupé depuis 1967. De son côté, le président Hafez-El-Assad, suite à la visite du ministre des Affaires Etrangères français Roland Dumas, avait é-

voqué la possibilité d'une "paix totale" avec son voisin israélien. En revanche, les pourparlers entre Palestiniens et Israéliens semblent bloqués, selon les confidences de participants à la réunion d'Amman. Les Palestiniens, peu loquaces à la sortie des débats, ont seulement affirmé qu'ils "ont réglé leur malentendu" avec les Syriens, selon les termes d'un membre de la délégation aux négociations. M. Saeb Erakat s'est dit d'un "dialogue franc" entre les deux parties.

"Remarques" israéliennes

Comme prévu, le chef de la diplomatie égyptienne s'est transmis aux Palestiniens les "remarques" israéliennes recueillies lors de sa récente visite dans l'Etat hébreu, le 8 octobre dernier.

"Les Israéliens affirment que vous n'êtes pas sérieux dans les négociations bilatérales", a déclaré Amr Moussa, s'adressant à Farouk Kaddoumi. "Ils vous soupçonnent de procéder tacti-



SOIF DE DIALOGUE

Télex... Jordanie

SCISSON - Les Fronts populaire et démocratique de libération de la Palestine (FPLP et FDLF) ont rejeté samedi dernier les résolutions du Conseil central de l'OLP. Les deux des trois principales formations de l'organisation palestinienne refusent donc de poursuivre les négociations de paix avec Israël.

POTASSE - La Jordanie a lancé un projet de 260 millions de dollars pour augmenter sa production de potasse. Celle-ci est estimée à 1,4 million de tonnes par an, selon le directeur adjoint de la compagnie arabe de potasse, M. Suleiman Hawari. Ce projet qui s'étale sur cinq ans, vise à porter la production du royaume à 2,2 millions de tonnes par an.

EMPLOI - Le Premier ministre a exhorté lundi le Fonds pour le Développement et l'Emploi à étendre ses services. Devant le conseil d'administration de ce bureau, créé en raison de la guerre du Golfe, Zeid Ben Shaker a fixé comme cible de travail les bas-salaires. L'objectif est de s'attaquer aux problèmes du chômage et de la pauvreté en Jordanie.

ACCIDENTS - Le directeur de la Sécurité Publique, Fadel Ali, lance un appel national en vue de réduire le nombre d'accidents de la route. Entre 1990 et 1991, le nombre d'accidents mortels est passé de 344 à 400.

PRESSE - "La liberté est indispensable dans un pays démocratique, mais cette liberté a des limites". Cette phrase est signée Mahmoud El Sherif, ministre de l'Information jordanien. "Nous ne devons pas penser que nous sommes en Suède ou en France", a déclaré le ministre de l'Information lors d'une conférence.

(avec AFP)

La page européenne

Jordanie-CEE: l'heure des comptes

Le comité européen pour les pays méditerranéens a inspecté ce mois-ci les projets communs. Une semaine de visite avant d'établir un rapport...

"LA COMMUNAUTÉ européenne accorde une aide par capita exceptionnelle à la Jordanie, c'est la plus importante de la zone méditerranéenne" affirme Fernando Garces de Los Fayos, responsable des relations extérieures de la CEE. Une raison suffisante pour justifier la visite de ce mois (du 3 au 10 octobre) d'une délégation de douze Européens, membres du comité de la CEE pour les pays méditerranéens. Composition de l'équipe: des délégués des pays membres, qui ont un pouvoir de décision sur les différents projets de coopération, des représentants de la Banque Européenne d'Investissement (BEI), du Conseil des ministres et de la Commission.

200 millions d'Ecus!

"L'objectif est de passer en revue les projets les plus importants, de se faire une idée de la réalité de la coopération entre la Communauté européenne et la Jordanie" ajoute Fernando Garces de Los Fayos. Une mission de taille. Les deux parties sont liées par des protocoles depuis 1977. Au total, la Jordanie a reçu plus de 200 millions d'Ecus (250 millions de \$) de la CEE. Environ 60% de ces aides se sont traduites sous forme de prêts de la BEI et 40% en dons de la Commission elle-même. Sans omettre les aides aux Organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) qui travaillent sur le sol du royaume.

Tout commence en 1977 avec la signature du premier protocole de l'ordre de 40 millions d'Ecus. Celui-ci couvre une période déterminée (1977-81). C'est le début, le point de départ d'une coopération régulière. D'autres accords vont suivre: le second protocole (1981-86) de 63 millions et le troisième (1987-91) de 100 millions d'Ecus. Ces différents aides à la Jordanie ont visé plusieurs secteurs. Le plus important est sans nul doute celui de l'éducation, "dont le niveau est aujourd'hui satisfaisant".

Autres cibles: l'agriculture, l'eau et l'irrigation, la coopération scientifique et industrielle. Au programme de la visite, figurent en bonne place le Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE), véritable zone industrielle de 255 hectares. Cette "ville" accueille 253 compagnies dont 35 sont détenues par des non-Jordanais. Les firmes économiques ont au moins 50% de leurs coûts de fonctionnement en installant leur siège à la Jordanie. Le directeur général de la Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), Fayez Suhelmat,



Fernando Garces de Los Fayos

Ce projet gouvernemental de 1979 reçoit l'aide de la Communauté européenne: un peu moins de 19 millions d'Ecus sous forme de prêts et dons.

"Notre objectif est de voir si la JIEC peut voler de ses propres ailes. Il semble que ce soit possible" déclarait un des membres de

plan social" ajoute le responsable de la Jordanie à la direction des relations extérieures de la CEE. L'ajustement structurel était le principal dossier sur la table lors de la récente visite de Ziad Pariz, ministre du Plan à Bruxelles. La CEE et la Jordanie ont signé le 29 septembre dernier une conven-

tion. "C'est une aide à la balance des paiements, affirme Fernando Garces de Los Fayos, et dans le même temps, les fonds en contrepartie seront affectés aux secteurs les plus en difficulté tels que le social, les travaux publics, la santé, l'eau, les routes..."

Les 40 autres millions de cette convention s'inscrivent dans le cadre des fonds de la CEE pour les pays méditerranéens. Une coopération d'ordre régional qui prévoit l'allocation de 300 millions d'Ecus pour toute la zone. C'est dire l'importance accordée à la seule Jordanie.

"Ce n'est pas la première fois que la CEE accorde une aide au royaume indépendamment des protocoles d'accord. Il y a eu un précédent avec le don de 150 millions d'Ecus pendant la guerre du Golfe, car la Jordanie était un des pays de la ligne de front" rappelle Fernando Garces de Los Fayos.

Le rapport

A Bruxelles, Ziad Pariz a paraphé trois autres conventions. La première vise à assier le gouvernement jordanien dans son programme de redressement économique.

Dans ce cadre, un don de la commission doit faciliter le développement de l'emploi. Un autre accord prévoit l'octroi de 2 millions d'Ecus dans le but d'améliorer la productivité de l'agriculture jordanienne en zones aride et semi-aride.

Enfin, la CEE poursuit son effort en matière d'éducation en accordant 3,5 millions d'Ecus sous forme de don à la Jordanie. Objectif: renforcer le potentiel de recherche dans les universités du royaume (Université de Jordanie, Université du Yarmouk)...

Dernière minute: la Jordanie va bénéficier d'un don de 1,8 million d'Ecus pour financer les stages de perfectionnement des techniciens et des officiels des ministères de l'Education et de l'Enseignement supérieur. Une mesure qui devrait aller dans le sens de la mise en place de la réforme de l'éducation en Jordanie.

Les accords et allocations se multiplient... Le comité doit maintenant faire son rapport sur l'efficacité de la coopération européenne en Jordanie. Un texte qui peut à lui seul déterminer l'avenir des relations entre la CEE et la Jordanie. Pas de panique: les premières impressions, livrées en coulisses par les membres de la délégation sont positives.

François Mazoyer

L'EDITO

De Amine Chablout

Intégration

LA DÉCENNIE des Nations Unies pour les handicapés se termine cette année. Dix ans de travail à l'outrance en vue de sensibiliser une opinion publique qui a tendance à discriminer cette catégorie sociale importante. Presque 10% de la population de la région de l'Asie occidentale est constituée de citoyens handicapés.

Comment chasser de l'esprit des 90% que les handicapés ne sont ni parasites ni inférieurs? Les Nations Unies ont mené à travers leur Département du Développement social (bureau de Vienne) et leur Commission régionale pour l'Asie occidentale, la CESAO, des actions et des programmes, évoluant sur deux axes.

Sensibiliser la majorité autour de l'idée que les handicapés peuvent s'intégrer dans la société et contribuer à son développement. Démontrer les capacités et potentialités des handicapés, ce qui n'était pas une mission impossible.

Les multiples séminaires organisés par la CESAO sont autant de tentatives visant à mettre un terme à une discrimination qui a ajouté les handicapés à la liste des victimes de nos sociétés.

Concrètement, lors de son "Evénement culturel" des 17 et 18 octobre à Amman, la CESAO a adopté une stratégie régionale à long terme jusqu'en l'an 2010. Il s'agit d'un mécanisme juridique protégeant les droits des handicapés. Notamment le droit à l'emploi, à des facilités urbaines et sociales adaptées... D'autre part, la CESAO a lancé une campagne dans les médias en vue de convaincre l'opinion publique du besoin urgent d'intégrer les handicapés.

Dernier élément, impliquer les Organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) concernées par les questions des handicapés. Enfin, un Centre régional de coordination sera créé. Toutes ces mesures sont la preuve que le problème est attaqué à la base. Que les mots trouvent leurs applications dans la réalité concrète.

Téléphone

Le Jourdain

648.298

652.380

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
17 to 23
October

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos
9:00 — Perspective
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film: 'Into the Badlands', Starring Bruce Dern, Mariel Hemingway. About an old bounty hunter who never fulfills his dream of having a horse farm of his own.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Coach
9:10 — Documentary
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Midnight Caller

MONDAY

8:30 — Slits
9:10 — A Fine Romance
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — The Gravy Train

TUESDAY

8:30 — The Golden Girls
9:30 — Tex. A bank robbery is carried out electronically across the Atlantic.
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — When the Lion Roars. A documentary about MGM after the depression era, and the famous films that were produced during that time.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved By The Bell
9:00 — Wednesday Forum
9:10 — Cluedo
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — The Cawra Break. A

true story about the events at the Cowra prisoners camp for Japanese soldiers during World War II, that were not revealed for more than thirty years.

THURSDAY

8:30 — Uncle Buck
9:10 — Civil Wars
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Movie of the Week: 'Full Moon in Blue Waters', starring Gene Hackman. A beautiful story about the lives of the people in the small city of Blue Waters.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Too Close for Comfort
9:10 — Nonni and Manni
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — The Antagonists

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Au Clair de Lune
6:06 — Les Aventures du Bosco
6:40 — Opération Mozart
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Fenêtre Sur. A local

Top Video Rentals

1. Medline Man, Sean Connery. Lorraine Bracco, Hollywood Home Video.
2. Fried Green Tomatoes, Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, MCA Universal Home Video.
3. White Men Can't Jump, Woody Harrelson, Wesley Snipes, Fox Video.
4. The Hand that Rocks the Cradle, Anabella Sciorra, Rebecca DeMornay, Warner Home Video.

FREE INTRODUCTION TO THE SPORT OF ROCK CLIMBING

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ALCAZAR HOTEL, AQABA, WILFRIED COLONNA, A CERTIFIED MOUNTAIN GUIDE AND CLIMBING TEACHER, IS OFFERING A FREE COURSE IN THE BASIC SKILLS OF ROCK CLIMBING FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO CONTINUE WITH THIS EXCITING SPORT.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT THE ALCAZAR HOTEL, AQABA. TEL: 03 314131/2 FAX: 03 314133 (ASK FOR GILL)

The Star
Tel. 648298

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March-19 April): Get out into the country, even if it means forgetting something in town. Catch up later.
TAURUS (20 April-20 May): You'll be very intense. Do all your hardest work early, just in case you don't feel like it later.
GEMINI (21 May-20 June): Focus on working with others. Don't gossip to pass the time though.
CANCER (21 June-22 July): Decisions you make could last for years! It's a good time to establish a permanent relationship.

LEO (23 July-22 August): Don't plan to get much done, you'll be fighting against massive resistance. Accept defeat gracefully.
VIRGO (23 August-22 October): You should be able to absorb information like a sponge. Stay on top of yourself, so you can concentrate.
LIBRA (23 September-22 October): Hold onto your money. You might even get somebody to tell you how to invest it.

SCORPIO (23 October-21 November): This is your lucky week. You'll be so full of energy, you'll get all your work done and still have time to go to a club meeting.
SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): Watch out for bureaucratic foul-ups. If anything can go wrong, it probably will.
CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): Friends you've met through the club will be in a good position to help you with your work.

AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): Don't spend money on gifts, but do come up with an outlandish costume. A space cadet is the obvious choice.
PISCES (19 February-20 March): If you need a loan, ask for it, you'll probably get it, but there will be strings attached, even if it comes from a relative.

Dining Out

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room.

Amman-Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403-Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

The Tower Restaurant
40 Years of Experience
• Libanese and French
• Oriental Cuisine
• European Specialties
• Steak Tartar
• Pepper Steak
• Hot Mignon
• Omelette
• Lobster, Crayons, etc.
Tower Bldg, 23rd Floor
For Reservations Tel: 634094/5

For A Superb Meal Think of

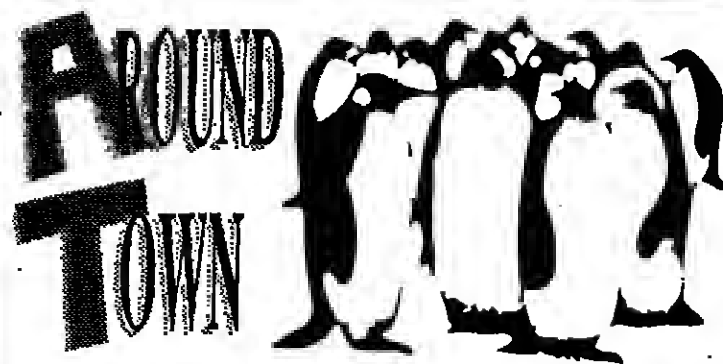
(Amigo Nabeel)

Oriental Appetizers & European Food. Located in a quiet central area 1st circle, Jebel Amman
Tel: 638031 & 622617

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliyyah Girls School
Take-away service
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 630068

The first haute cuisine menu designed for those who love fine food. It mirrors our special styles and taste levels.
Warm, Hospitable.
Shepherd Hotel
for your reservations call 639197

Dos Palmaras Mexican Cuisine
Tel. 654 20 5
Jebel Amman - First Circle



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Iraqis play Beethoven to the sound of bombing!

By Mary Denis
Special to the Star

VIRTUOSITY, PROFESSIONAL integrity, expertise and total dedication to the art of music in all its manifestations, can best describe the qualities of the two talented musicians who performed at the audience-packed RCC last week.

Aram Zaraslan (violin) and Otai Haddad (Piano) were presented by the National Music Conservatory and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in a memorable duet concert — one of the most significant musical events of the year.

Their presentation of Rachmaninov's Vocalization for Violin and Piano may serve, perhaps, as an epitome of their musical intellect in perceiving the genius of Rachmaninov, and their ability, through technique, to convey the composer's brilliance and rationale.

As individual performers Aram and Otai also shine. There is nothing Aram cannot do on his violin. Any music he plays comes "alive" from under his bow. At a private party once, Aram wanted to amuse his friends by playing violin. As he did not have his own, he had to resort to a junior size which happened to be there. But what power and tone he managed to "extract" from that tiny violin, designed for young children!

As far back as Aram can remember, he was always exposed to music. His "romance" with the violin started some 20 years ago, when, as a child, he started to study violin with private teachers, later joining the Baghdad Music and Ballet School. He excelled, and was sent to Russia to further his musical education there.

When Aram plays, his command of the violin is superb. He "subjugates" his violin to his own will totally. He says he likes to go beyond virtuosity, which is pure technique — "just like applied art," he says. Aram sees music playing as relaying the essence of the composer's inner-

self. At the moment, Aram teaches very advanced students at the Conservatory and trains them in chamber ensembles. Holder of a Master's degree in violin, he has also won several international competitions and is preparing to participate in a forthcoming violin competition in Belgium in the spring.

Aram's long-time accompanist, Otai Haddad, will play with him during the competition. Perhaps it is due to the similarity of their musical advancement and experience that the two musicians are so much "in tune" with one another. Just like his fellow musician Aram, Otai was exposed to music from his early childhood and also studied in Russia at about the same time as Aram.

A thorough musician who leaves nothing to chance, Otai believes that the whole purpose in performing for the audience is in perfecting technique and interpreting music. "It is an infinite process," he said.

He is perhaps at his best when playing Rachmaninov or Chopin. His slender hands flow with sensitivity. Otai's success lies in rendering all the tenderness and passion of Romantic composers.

The advancement of the two musicians' careers was avowed by the long war in Iraq. They were enlisted in the Iraqi army, and the uncertainty of the war became a way of life. Aram at least could carry his violin with him, but Otai very clearly lost heart out of despair. "I could not practice, sometimes for months," he re-



calls.

The culmination of their despair came on 15 January 1991 when bombs started to drop on Baghdad. Ironically enough, it was during the Gulf War that their professional partnership crystallized. "We were stuck at home for hours and days on end. All we could do was play music," they recollect. It was under the deafening bomb attacks that Oershvinn Preluda, which Aram and Otai played so often during that time, got new orchestration. Beethoven Sonatas, also played continuously, could have been heard by the deaf composer himself. "We played so loud in order to outdo the bombing," they say.

A performer by vocation, Otai is a concert pianist and faculty member at the National Music Conservatory, where he also teaches. The two musicians say they are very grateful to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation for its interest and support.

Zaraslan and Haddad have undoubtedly enriched Jordanian musical and educational spheres and are a source of pride for us all. ■

Agenda

FILMS

On Wednesday 28 October, the British Council will show Oscar Wilde's comedy 'The Importance of Being Earnest', a tale of courtship.

On Thursday 22 October and Tuesday 27 October, the American Center in Amman will show 'The Quiet Man', starring John Wayne. Tuesday 27 October will also show ABC's News Weekly Highlights and The MacNeil Lehrer News Hour. All films start at 5:00 pm.

FIELD TRIP

On Friday 23 October the Friends of Archeology (FOA) will have a trip to Lehn, 80 km south of Amman, where a Belgian team is now excavating. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel at 9 am by bus or private car.

LECTURES

On Monday 26 October Dr Nabil Khary of the University of

Jordanians will be able to enjoy a taste of Scandinavia next week at a fund raising evening of Finnish food and fashion — with all proceeds going towards a highly worthy cause.

Organizer of the event is celebrated Finnish journalist Ms Rita Tainola, who is in the country to raise funds for Jordan's P.R.O.M.I.S.E. Welfare Society.

With Princess Alia Al-Faisal as working president, the Society was established three years ago and aims to rehabilitate, educate and provide basic commodities for those below the poverty line. All proceeds from the event will go directly to the organization.

'Finland in Jordan' will be marked by a high profile gala dinner, which will be held on the evening of Tuesday 27 October at the Amra Hotel. Over 300 people are expected to attend, including members of the Royal Family and the Finnish Ambassador to Syria, Mr Arto Kurittu. The five-course dinner, which will be prepared by chefs at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, will feature such specialties as Finnish salmon, berries and spring water.

Added attractions will be a fashion show, which will feature the latest lines of 10 Finnish clothing companies to be displayed by 6 Finnish fashion models, and a performance by famed Finnish singer Anna Koriseva and her Fortuna orchestra. The event will be hosted by the former Miss Finland.

A fund raising tea party on 28 October has also been organized, along with a charity polo match on 30 October, in which the Finnish and Jordanian national teams will compete. Ms Tainola re-



vealed that the Finnish team will have one "surprise" member — being blonde and female!

Having traveled the globe extensively throughout her 15-year career, Ms Tainola claims to love Jordan above anywhere else. "Such kindness and hospitality cannot be found anywhere else in the world," she enthused.

Ms Tainola collected all of the money needed to stage the 'Finland in Jordan' event by approaching Finnish companies represented in the Kingdom. She has also brought 25 compatriots to Jordan, plus a camera crew from the Finnish TV who will film a half-hour documentary on the country and its people.

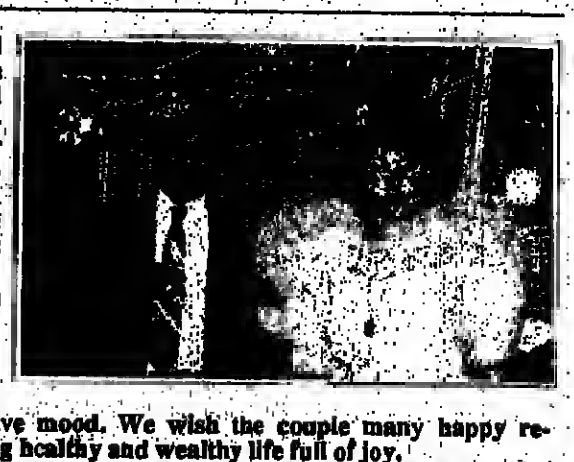
Ms Tainola added proudly that this charity event will also coincide with Finland's 75th Independence celebrations, which will be marked on 6 December the year.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, in co-operation with Lufthansa and the Marriott Hotel, has organized a German week that will be held at the Marriott Hotel from 26 till 30 October. During this week, a trade show will feature a variety of consumer goods made in Germany. Automobiles, household appliances, video and audio electronics, German delicacies and other fine products will be displayed by 26 exhibitors in the hotel's lobby. The exhibition will be opened by the German chargé d'affaires A.L. Mr Mathias Meyer on Monday, 26 October, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and on Tuesday, Wednesday, 27 and 28 October from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The trade show will be accessible for the interested public free of entrance fee. This is the first event in Jordan displaying only German products. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, there will also be two children shows followed by two evenings of the famous Oktoberfest, a traditional Bavarian festival.

Vismay Anand of Mr and Mrs P.V. Vivekanand of the Jordan Times, celebrated her first birthday on 23 September. Vismay is the second child. The first is seven-year-old Anoop. Both children were born in Jordan. Vismay, a senior editor at the Jordan Times, has been with the paper for the past 13 years.



Fayez and Waleed Abu Qattam would like to congratulate their brother, Abdul-Rahman Abu Qattam on the occasion of his daughter's wedding. Amal Abu Qattam was wedded to Mohammad Abu Harb. In very happy and festive mood. We wish the couple many happy returns and a long healthy and wealthy life full of joy.



Diary

Church of the Good Shepherd:
(Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-
Sunmaq Tel. 811295.

(4) Promises a heart stopper
(5) Lead directing for partner to lead spades the first suit bid by dummy

Nuba Hattar led a spade, I won dummies queen by the Ace and declarer followed.

I put on my thinking cap and event into a long pause:

a) Declarer hand is 1-3-4-5-;
The spade singleton was confirmed; the ♥K which was promised as a stopper; clubs are longer than diamonds and they can not be all other wise declarer would have opened a precision 2♠, accordingly they should be five cards and the diamonds (which should be shorter) are four.

b) Putting the ♥K aside, declarer holds 11 or 12 points, accordingly he can not hold all the missing honours:
♦ AQJ and ♠ AKQ, partner must hold 4 or 5 of these points, and it is more probable that the declarer and my partner hold the points divided between minors.

c) To put the contract maximum down, I should complicate the declarer communications as much as I can, and to do that I should lead both diamonds and clubs and delay my ♥ A until declarer last heart is played.

I led diamonds first because it provides a better communication's prospect, the declarer won with the Ace, he played heart and I won the third heart to play back a club.

The declarer fussed, partner won and played back ~~correctly~~ a diamond to block the declarer in dummy or in his hand.

Two down and 500 to us, our team notes went down in ♠♥ and we would have lost the hand without the double.